

January 2, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR:

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget

Subject: The Medal of Freedom

In June of 1945 the Secretary of War and Navy addressed a letter to the Director of the Bureau of the Budget proposing a draft of an Executive Order establishing a new medal to be known as the Medal of Freedom. The purpose of this order was to establish a medal that could be awarded to individuals who had performed meritorious acts or services not necessarily military in nature which had a direct beneficial result on our military operations. An amendment to the order was proposed by the Acting Secretary of State and, after clearance by the Attorney General, the President signed the order on 6 July 1945.

You will note that the language of the order restricts the award of the Medal of Freedom to acts performed in the 'prosecution of a war against an enemy or enemies'. Also, the medal may be awarded only by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designees.

Under present circumstances there would appear to be need for authority to award the Medal of Freedom or some similar medal. The President wishes you would refer this matter to the interested departments or agencies with a view to revision or replacement of the Executive Order "The Medal of Freedom" of July 7, 1945.

ROBERT L. DENNISON,
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy,
Naval Aide to the President.

Attachment:

Copy of Executive Order #9586, "The Medal of Freedom".

EXECUTIVE ORDER 9586

The Medal of Freedom

By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States and as Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

There is hereby established a medal to be known as the Medal of Freedom with accompanying ribbons and appurtenances for award to any person, not hereinafter specifically excluded, who, on or after December 7, 1951, has performed a meritorious act or service which has aided the United States in the prosecution of a war against an enemy or enemies and for which an award of another United States medal or decoration is considered inappropriate. The Medal of Freedom may also be awarded to any person, not hereinafter specifically excluded, who, on or after December 7, 1951, has similarly aided any nation engaged with the United States in the prosecution of a war against a common enemy or enemies.

The Medal of Freedom shall not be awarded to a citizen of the United States for any act or service performed within the continental limits of the United States or to a member of the armed forces of the United States.

The Medal of Freedom and appurtenances thereto shall be of appropriate design, approved by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy, and may be awarded by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, or the Secretary of the Navy, or by such officers as the said Secretaries may respectively designate. Awards shall be made under such regulations as the said

Secretaries shall severally prescribe and such regulations shall, insofar as practicable, be of uniform application.

No more than one Medal of Freedom shall be awarded to any one person, but for a subsequent act or service justifying such an award a suitable device may be awarded to be worn with the medal. The Medal of Freedom may be awarded posthumously.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 6, 1945.